

Application No.: 10/572,991
Filing Date: January 10, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 32, 33, 38, 39 and 43-49 are presently pending. Amendments to the claims are discussed below. No new matter has been added herewith. The following addresses the substance of the Office Action.

Anticipation

Claims 32-33, 38-41 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (U.S. Patent No. 2,498,374). However, the Examiner indicated at page 2 of the Office Action that the subject matter of Claims 41 and 42 was allowable. Thus, the Applicant has incorporated the limitations of Claim 41 into Claim 32. The limitation of Claim 42 is separately incorporated into Claim 32 (redrafted as new, independent Claim 49). The remaining dependent claims are retained.

Based on the Examiner's statement of allowability, the claims are believed to be free of the prior art and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Obviousness

Martin in view of Gordhamer

Claims 43-45 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (*supra*) in view of Gordhamer (U.S. Patent No. 3,821,956).

Claims 43 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (*supra*) in view of Child (U.S. Patent No. 4,385,633).

As noted above, the Applicant has incorporated the limitations of Claim 41 into Claim 32, which the Examiner indicated would result in allowable subject matter. Since Claims 43-47 are dependent on Claim 32, all of these claims are believed to be nonobvious and allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this

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application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the Claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: Raymond D. Smith
Raymond D. Smith
Registration No. 55,634
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20995
(949) 760-0404

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